

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Claims 1-2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising: (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a fully complementary sequence thereof; (b) a nucleotide sequence which encodes amino acid residues 162 ~~residues 162~~ to 365 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fully complementary sequence thereof; (c) nucleotides 291-2153 of SEQ ID NO:1, or a fully complementary sequence thereof; or (d) a nucleotide sequence, or a fully complementary sequence thereof, which under stringent conditions hybridizes with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or its complement, wherein the stringent condition comprises washing for 1 hour at 55° C with 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of Claim 3 fused in-frame to a heterologous coding sequence.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid sequence according to claim 4, wherein said heterologous coding sequence encodes an antigen from a source selected from the group consisting of bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoa, nematode, and tumor.

Claim 6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (previously presented) A DNA expression vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 3, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a transcriptional regulatory sequence.

Claim 8. (previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed with the DNA expression vector of claim 7.

Claims 9-16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:2, or its fully complementary sequence thereof.

Claims 18-39. (cancelled)

Claim 40. (previously presented) A composition comprising the DNA expression vector of Claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.